



LATEST NEWS OF THE WORLD BY TELEGRAPH AND CABLE.

JOE WHEELER STRIKES BACK

Refutes Allegations Which
Reflect Upon His Division.

A VOLUMINOUS STATEMENT

The Hero Throws New Light Upon
the Santiago Campaign--A History
of the Movement Against the
Spaniards and His Part in It--Was
Second in Command--Lawton
Quoted Against Lawton.

(By Telegraph to Virginia-Pilot.)

Washington, D. C., March 20.--Adjutant General Corbin to-day made public the statement which General Wheeler has felt called upon to make in order, as he says, "to refute certain allegations which reflect upon the cavalry division which I had the honor to command."

The statement is exceedingly voluminous, making really another history of the campaign before Santiago, and it is accompanied by an appendix made up of letters from officers who were connected with General Wheeler in his operations to support the allegations he makes.

INJUSTICE TO THE ARMY.

General Wheeler begins with the declaration that some statements were made before the War Investigating Commission regarding the battle of La Guasima, which do great injustice to the part of the army which fought that battle. Stephen Bonsai stated that General Wheeler was guilty of disobedience of orders. General Wheeler says that to remain silent, and neglect to refute the untrue charges made by Bonsai would be disloyal to the soldiers and to the country. He notes that it is with the approval of Major-General Miles, Commanding General, that he makes the explanation now submitted.

HISTORY OF THE MOVEMENT.

The history of the movement begins with the motion of a statement made by General Lawton before the War Commission, to the effect that he had been directed by the General Commanding to proceed to and capture Siboney. General Wheeler tells how the troops landed; how he had pointed out to Shafter the necessity of pursuing and beating the Spaniards before they could retreat behind their strong breastworks at Santiago, and how Shafter and many other officers who were in the War Commission, in the necessity of a speedy movement, he reports Shafter's order to "proceed to Jaruquillo" (otherwise Siboney). He quotes various orders to show Shafter's anxiety to get Wheeler rapidly forward, in order to reach Lawton, whom he found on the road just before reaching Siboney. Wheeler tells of the reconnaissance he made personally and of a consultation that night with General Young and Colonel Wood. He says the Cubans predicted that the Spaniards would leave Siboney and Santiago that night.

FOUND THE SPANIARDS.

When the advance began next day, General Wheeler says, the regular corps and artillery were ordered upon the main Siboney and Santiago road, while the Rough Riders and some of the other cavalry organizations "were on the recommendation of General Lawton sent by the less frequented and most difficult road." The Spaniards were found in the same position next morning about three miles from Siboney and General Wheeler gives a description of the action that followed. He says that the dynamite gun, upon which great reliance was placed, failed to reach him, and it was for a time very doubtful whether the men in front of him were Spaniards or Cubans. In an hour the fight was won, but the enemy's retreat being precipitate, his men being exhausted, and all being on foot, pursuit was impossible. At this point General Wheeler includes congratulatory reports from Shafter upon the engagement.

SECOND IN COMMAND.

He points out that Shafter was the only officer in Cuban waters senior to him; that he, Wheeler, was the senior officer on shore, and, of course, much was left to his discretion. He quotes Shafter's testimony before the commission to the effect that the fight had good results; that it taught the Spaniards that they had different men from the Cubans to fight. Wheeler submits that this shows beyond controversy that what he did was strictly in accordance with Shafter's orders, that the Spaniards were in a position where it was advantageous for the Americans to attack them rather than to allow them to fight in their blockhouses and other defenses, which they occupied at the time Lawton received his orders, says General Wheeler.

GUIDED BY SHAFER'S WISHES.

In addition, General Wheeler insists that leaving this evidence aside, the facts stated by Lawton in his report to Shafter of June 23d, and that Lawton's sworn evidence before the War Commission would show that he fought the La Guasima battle in strict compliance with the express wishes of General Shafter, his commanding general. Wheeler quotes Lawton's statement that he had been ordered by Shafter to proceed against Siboney, and declares that practically his orders were the same as Lawton's. He insists that the Spaniards were in a position where it was advantageous for the Americans to attack them rather than to allow them to fight in their blockhouses and other defenses, which they occupied at the time Lawton received his orders, says General Wheeler.

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BRYAN'S REPLY TO BELMONT

Why the People's Champion
Declined an Invitation.

HIS RINGING REJOINER

There is No Party Advantage in Communion Between Jeffersonian Democrats Who Stand Upon the Chicago Platform, and Men Who Pose as Jeffersonian Democrats and Betray Democracy--Mr. Bryan's Final Offer.

(By Telegraph to Virginia-Pilot.)

Chattanooga, Tenn., March 20.--Hon. William J. Bryan to-day gave out the following correspondence to the Associated Press, having been notified that it had not been made public by Mr. Belmont. Mr. Bryan stated that he had nothing to say about the matter, but that the correspondence spoke for itself:

Champaign, Ill., March 16th.

Hon. Perry Belmont, President Democratic Club, New York:

Dear Sir:--I received a few days ago the following telegram:

New York, March 9, 1899.

Hon. William J. Bryan, Lincoln, Neb.: In arranging the toasts and responses at the banquet of the Democratic Club of Jefferson's birthday, April 15th, the committee are most desirous, if your engagements will permit your attendance, to have you select such subject as you prefer to discuss in your own way within the limit so far, all speeches of twenty minutes. Please wire reply.

PERRY BELMONT.

President.

RICHARD CROKER.

Chairman.

MR. BRYAN'S INQUIRY.

Upon my return to Nebraska I sent the following enquiry:

Lincoln, Neb., March 13, 1899.

Hon. Perry Belmont, Democratic Club, New York:

Invitation received. "Remembering that you openly repudiated the Democratic platform in the last campaign, I desire to know, before answering invitation, whether you have since the election publicly announced your conversion to the principles set forth in that platform."

WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN.

MR. BELMONT'S REJOINER.

I have just received your reply: "The invitation extended to you is on behalf of the Democratic Club. Individual opinions have not been considered in issuing the invitations to celebrate the birthday of Thomas Jefferson."

MR. BRYAN'S REJOINER.

I might plead a previous engagement as a reason for declining, but that would be equivalent to saying that I would come for the engagement, but frankness compels me to add another reason. I appreciate the compliment which the Democratic Club pays me in extending an invitation, but I do not understand how individual opinions can be ignored at a political gathering. You are the president of the club and represent the club before the public. Your position upon public questions was well known in 1896, and your telegram indicates that your position has not been changed. My position upon public questions is also well known. The antagonism between our opinions is so great that we cannot with propriety join in a political banquet given in honor of Democracy's patron saint. Jefferson stood for certain well defined principles. If your views are a correct reflection of his ideas, I fear that my voice would sound a discordant note at your banquet.

If, on the other hand, the Chicago platform applies (as I believe it does) Jeffersonian principles to present conditions, then your conspicuous presence at the Jeffersonian banquet could not honor the memory of the world's greatest Democrat.

Do not misunderstand me. You may be right and I may be wrong, but I take it for granted that we are equally conscientious and I trust that I may not show myself less courageous than you. You proclaimed to your fellow citizens in 1896 that my objection to a Democratic platform would endanger the nation's welfare; you will pardon me if I suggest that a banquet, presided over by you, will injure rather than aid the Democratic party. I believe in harmonizing personal differences, but differences in principle cannot be harmonized and, in my judgment, no party advantage is to be derived from political communion between Jeffersonian Democrats who stand upon the Chicago platform and the Republican allies who masquerade as Democrats between campaigns in order to give

Yours truly,

WILLIAM J. BRYAN.

ANOTHER LETTER FROM BELMONT.

New York, March 20.--Perry Belmont to-night gave out the following letter in reply to one received during the day from Col. William J. Bryan:

"Dear Sir:--I have just received your letter of the 16th instant, in which you describe those who declared in 1896 that your election to the Presidency on the Chicago platform would endanger the nation's welfare as 'the Republican allies who masquerade as Democrats between campaigns in order to give

more potency to their betrayal of Democratic principles on election day."

Mr. Belmont then goes on to say that before answering "the unwarranted letter" he had instituted a suit against a New York newspaper on account of an alleged libel, in which he was characterized "as a higher priced man than the flower, who sells his vote for two dollars on election day," and continues: "Your purpose to be equally defamatory is obvious. Your skill in the use of words forbids the plea that in your letter you misused them through ignorance. The design is plain, and were it not that you have interwoven in your abuse reference to my opinion upon public questions as opposed to your own, to the Democratic Club of which I am president, and to its proposed celebration of Jefferson's birthday, I should have left your offensive statements unanswered."

"The Democratic Club of New York has a membership of nearly three thousand Democrats, who all hold to the main principles of Democracy, while their opinions may vary in regard to such political questions as are not fundamental, but merely local or transitory, like many of the vain conceits you have yourself espoused. But none of those three thousand members is a Republican. As for myself, I never voted for a Republican candidate either for a great or small office."

"The Board of Governors and the President of so large a Democratic organization endeavored to represent officially the wishes of the majority, which was that the coming anniversary of the birthday of Jefferson should be celebrated this year by the organization as in previous years. To recall those principles and traditions with which his name is so indelibly associated tends to bring about a revival of Democratic control based on public questions, the conditions of which are not transitory."

"To the explanation made to you that individual opinions have not been considered," you replied that "you do not understand how individual opinions can be ignored in a political gathering."

"Then you proceeded to contrast your opinions with mine, to emphasize their antagonism, and finally declared that 'you and I cannot with propriety join in a political banquet given in honor of Democracy's patron saint.'"

"Your contention is that the Chicago platform applies Jeffersonian principles to present conditions, and that because I criticized that platform in its application to conditions existing three years ago, and resisted your candidacy for the presidency, therefore my presence at the proposed dinner would not honor the world's greatest Democrat."

"The course of events will probably prove your understanding of the relations of individuals, opinions to Democratic gatherings, and it is therefore required of me now to divulge in a long discourse on the relations in your politics of temporary to permanent questions."

"On returning from the Chicago Convention I explained my course in a public address to my constituents and justified my protest on the ground that legislation and executive action in enforcing the Chicago platform would be an assault on wages and savings, bring on silver monometallism, and impair the obligations of contracts. I thereafter contended, wherever I had opportunity, that insistence by the United States on the coining ratio of 16 to 1 would be the grave of international bimetalism and that if Europe opened its mints at 15 to 1 this Government persisted in the ratio of 16 the result would be as in 1834 and the United States would be left with only a subsidiary currency."

"I do not answer you as an individual, and not as committing the organization of which I am president."

"No copy of your letter or this reply has been seen by any member of the Democratic Club, and will not appear after the reply has been mailed to you. It is not practical for me to recall in this letter the substance of what I have written or spoken during or since the last Presidential campaign in its many phases, although I do not in any way recognize your right to question my Democracy. I am sending you by this mail a volume which correctly gives the list of everything which has been published, and you are at liberty to indicate and expose any portion that is unpatriotic, un-Democratic, un-American or in conflict with the Democratic creed as set forth in Jefferson's first inaugural address."

(Signed) "PERRY BELMONT." Chicago, March 20.--Mr. Bryan said to-night to the Associated Press that he would attend the Dollar Banquet in New York if it postponed until April 15th, provided the management of that entertainment make it distinctly Chicago platform in honor of Jefferson; otherwise not. He was informed on authority that the management would postpone the banquet if he would attend, but no answer has yet been made as to whether the affair would be made a distinctive Chicago platform banquet.

Commissioners First Meeting.

(By Telegraph to Virginia-Pilot.)

Manila, March 21.--8:35 a. m.--The United States Philippine commission has held its first meeting and decided to issue a proclamation to the inhabitants of the islands. President Schurman will prepare it.

The document will explain the spirit in which the United States intends to fulfill the trust imposed and will call upon the people of the islands to lay down their arms and co-operate in the interests of good government.

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CLASSIFICATION OF NEWS.

BY DEPARTMENTS.
Telegraph News--Pages 1 and 11.
Local News--Pages 2, 3, 5 and 6.
Editorial--Page 4.
Home Study Circle--Page 4.
Virginia News--Pages 7 and 8.
North Carolina News--Page 9.
Portsmouth News--Pages 10 and 11.
Berkley News--Page 11.
Markets--Page 12.
Shipping--Page 12.
Real Estate--Page 12.

EXTREME MEASURES

Aguinaldo Condemns Twelve Adherents to Death.

General Lagarda Decapitated White on Friendly Visit--Fighting Sunday--Our Army Operating Under Hard Conditions--The Casualties.

(By Telegraph to Virginia-Pilot.)

Manila, March 20.--8:40 a. m.--It is reported on high and reliable authority that Aguinaldo is taking extreme measures to suppress signs calculated to cause a cessation of hostilities. Twelve adherents of the plan of independence, residents of Manila, have been condemned to death because they wrote advising surrender; and all loyal Filipinos have been called upon to perform the national service of dispatching them.

GENERAL LAGARDA DECAPITATED.

On Friday last General Lagarda visited Malolos for the purpose of advising Aguinaldo to quit. He argued with the insurgent leader and attempted to convince him of the folly of his persistence in the face of overwhelming odds. Aguinaldo was furious at the advice, and ordered General Lagarda to be executed immediately.

The unfortunate General was promptly decapitated.

BRAVE WASHINGTON VOLUNTEERS.

Among the incidents of yesterday's fighting was the coolness exhibited by a company of the Washington volunteers, who crossed the river in a native canoe under a heavy fire--15 being taken across on each trip of the small boat to attack the enemy's trenches. The inability of the commissary train to keep up with the advance led to considerable suffering; and many of the men were completely exhausted when they were recalled, and falling from the ranks, were strung along a distance of almost six miles, numbers returning to camp in the artillery ambulances, which were always close up to the lines. The work of the ambulances was especially worthy of mention.

THE CASUALTIES.

Among the dead are several who previously were reported as wounded. Yesterday's casualties were as follows: Twenty-second Regiment--Captain Frank P. Jones, Company E; Privates Young, Aronson and Yunt, of Company D; Rice, Packer, White, Ellis, Morgan, Schuler, Campbell and Barnes, Company E; Edwards, Company K; Renfro, Company G, and Corporals Commenge and Nelson, Company M.

Washington Volunteers--Privates Brown, Company M.

Minnesota Volunteers--Private Bruce, Company C.

All the above are more or less seriously wounded.

MOUNTAIN BANDIT.

Manila, March 20.--4:10 p. m.--The mountain bandit of Panay Island recently threatened a serious attack upon Iloilo, but they were repulsed with a loss of 200 men by General Miller.

McNeil's battalion of the California Regiment, under Lieut.-Col. Dubois, has been ordered to embark on the transport Indiana to-morrow, in order to reinforce the garrisons of the towns of Balis and Baguayan, on the east coast of the Island of Negros, where Colonel Smith is in command. This is only a measure of precaution, as Major-General Otis says he does not anticipate trouble there.

KEEPER HARD CONDITIONS.

Hong Kong, March 20.--A correspondent of the Associated Press at Manila says: "An army has seldom operated under harder conditions than have been encountered by the American 'flying brigade.' The country the American troops have traversed is intersected by rivers and bays, and the enemy cannot be seen a hundred feet distant. During the charges, the Americans were ignorant as to whether they were attacking a hundred or thousands of rebels, which amazes the foreign observers. The Filipinos were unexpectedly fierce at Cainta. Had it not been for the fact that the American line was thin, the enfilading fire would have slaughtered many of our men."

"One of the prisoners captured by the Americans says the Filipino leaders boast that they can continue such a war for years, depending upon the American forces being weakened daily by twenty men killed, wounded, or invalidated."

"Considerable rain has fallen already, and it seems that the season for rains is beginning prematurely. It is possible that when the steady rains begin our troops will have to be withdrawn to permanent barracks, which may enable the rebels to return to their old positions."

"The Americans have refrained from destroying the buildings in the country swept by General Whelan's troops, a policy has been stationed before every store at Pasig, but the soldiers are bringing in loads of loot from dwelling houses."

RIVAL LEADERS MEET.

THE PRESIDENT AND SPEAKER MEET AT JEKYL ISLAND.

(By Telegraph to Virginia-Pilot.)

Brunswick, Ga., March 20.--President McKinley rests to-night on Jekyll Island, the beautiful winter club home of a number of Eastern millionaires, on Saint Simon's Sound, ten miles up the coast from Brunswick. With him are Mrs. McKinley, Vice President and Mrs. Hobart, and Senator Hanna. They are the guests of ex-Secretary of Interior Cornelius N. Bliss.

How Russia Is Governed.

Next to the British Empire and the United States, Russia is the greatest country in the world. No other country in the world to-day presents more interesting political problems. Readers of the Virginian-Pilot are advised not to overlook the study of the government of Russia to be presented by Dr. Macy, of Iowa College, in the "Home Study Circle" to-morrow.



DR. MACY,
Professor of Constitutional History,
Iowa College.

who the President promised to visit last year. In another cottage on the island is Speaker Thomas B. Reed. All persons in any way concerned in their presence at Jekyll assert positively and unreservedly that the visit of the two rival political leaders at the same time is a mere coincidence. Whether any improvement of their strained personal or political relations will be one of the accidents of their inevitable meeting on the island no one will predict. The Speaker will probably leave Jekyll to-morrow afternoon or Wednesday, and the President on Wednesday forenoon.

BRUNSWICK AGITATED.

The run of the Presidential train from Thomaston over the Plant System was rapid and without incident. Its arrival in Brunswick agitated the surface of the town's normally sluggish life. A census of its 12,000 inhabitants could have been taken about the wharf and the railroad track a block away when it reached here. A committee from the Jekyll Island club, comprising ex-Secretary Bliss, Major Thomas Nelson Page, Cable Promoter J. A. Schreyer and Coal Operator Joseph Stikney, of Philadelphia, welcomed the President and assisted by Mayor Atkinson and former Mayor Crovatt escorted him to Jekyll Island.

The President was greeted with a few cheers, which he slightly acknowledged by lifting his hat from the negroes on the hot cars along the railroad when he emerged from the train, and assisted Mrs. McKinley to the carriage, which took them to where the revenue cutter Colfax lay in waiting. Another small volley of cheers broke forth as the boat cast off and started on the ten mile river and sound trip to Jekyll. The demonstration was very slight. The weather was perfect. Speaker Reed, some club members and a score of pretty girls, in summer frocks, were at the water's edge to greet the Presidential party.

THE CAUSE'S ATTITUDE.

The big Speaker's attitude was characteristic, his hands behind his back and his head thrown back and upward. When the President walked ashore Mr. Reed smilingly raised his hat and said: "How do you do, Mr. President?" Mr. McKinley acknowledged the greeting with a low bow and said:

"How do you do, Mr. Speaker?" The President and Mrs. McKinley entered a carriage and drove away, and the Speaker strolled off with a pretty girl. This was all. Late in the afternoon the President and Vice-President Hobart went out driving.

PLEASANT STAY ASSURED.

The stay of the President at Jekyll will be made as pleasant and likewise as informal as possible. No reception will be given and Mr. McKinley and the others will be treated during their stay as a part of the island's large family. Jekyll is eight miles long by an extreme width of two miles. It has ten miles of fine beach and some pretty drives over which the President will be shown. The President and party are quartered in the cottage of Frederick Baker, who is in Europe traveling.

BRYAN IN CHATTANOOGA.

HE DISCUSSES INQUIRIES OF THE MCKINLEY ADMINISTRATION.

(By Telegraph to Virginia-Pilot.)

Chattanooga, Tenn., March 20.--Hon. W. J. Bryan was the guest of the Bryan Birthday Anniversary Club of this city to-day. A largely attended reception was tendered Mr. Bryan and Governor Benton McMillan, of this State, at the Southern Hotel during the afternoon. This evening Mr. Bryan addressed an audience of 5,000 people at the City Auditorium. Governor McMillan, Congressman Macon and other distinguished Democrats of Tennessee occupied the rostrum with the speaker. Mr. Bryan discussed the issues before the public, touching upon the income tax, the money question, trusts, the standing army and imperialism, following lines similar to those of his recent speeches. Speaking of imperialism, Mr. Bryan said:

"Our nation is tempted to depart from its standard of morality, and adopt a policy of 'criminal aggression.' But will it yield?"

"If I mistake not the sentiment of the American people they will spurn the bribe of imperialism, by resisting temptation, win such a victory as has not been won since the battle of Yorktown."

"The forcible annexation of the Philippine Islands is not necessary to make the United States a world power. For over ten decades our nation has been a world power. During its brief existence, it has exerted upon the human race an influence more potent for good than that of all the other nations of the earth combined, and it has exerted that influence without a sword or Gatling gun. Mexico and the republics of Central and South America testify to the benign influence of our institutions, while Europe and Asia give evidence of the working of the heaven of self-government."

"In the growth of Democracy we observe the triumphant march of an idea--an idea that would be weighed down rather than aided by the armor and weapons preferred by imperialists."

DEATH IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR

Electrocution of Mrs. Martha Place For Murder.

WENT TO DEATH QUIETLY

The First Woman to Be Executed Under New York's New Law--Neither Scene Nor Delay--The Journey to the Death Chamber and Preparations for the Last Act in the Tragedy.

(By Telegraph to Virginia-Pilot.)

New York, March 20.--Mrs. Martha Place was executed at Sing Sing prison to-day. She was the first woman to die in the electric chair in the State of New York, and she went to her death quietly. Her death was instantaneous, but two shocks were given. State Electrician Davis threw down the lever at exactly 11:01 a. m. The voltage of the current was 1,750, and it was continued for four seconds. It was then gradually diminished to 200 volts, which was continued for 55 seconds. Dr. Irvine, the physician of the prison, examined the woman and then ordered a second shock. That was the same as the first in power, and continued for the same length of time. The second shock has always been administered at Sing Sing.

THE WOMAN'S CRIME.

Mrs. Place murdered her step-daughter, Ida M. Place, a mere girl, on February 7, 1898. She first threw acid in the girl's eyes and then smothered her. This was early in the morning in their home in Brooklyn. She waited the entire day for her husband to return and then attacked him with an axe, fracturing his skull and otherwise seriously injuring him. Place, however, recovered.

Mrs. Place was convicted and sentenced to death, but she never for a moment believed she would be electrocuted. She at first claimed she could remember nothing of the murder, and later the plea of insanity was submitted in her behalf. It was not until Thursday last that Warden Sage announced to her that Governor Roosevelt had absolutely refused to interfere with the course of justice, and that she must die on Monday. It was a great shock to the woman, but during the last four days she bore up wonderfully well. She suffered in two ways, after she learned that she must die, from sleeplessness and from loss of appetite. Again, the warden visited her so that there might be no misunderstanding, and told her she must be ready at 11 o'clock Monday morning.

WENT TO DEATH CALMLY.

She was ready at that hour, and no one who watched her could understand what change must have taken place in the woman's nature to so dull her senses that she could go to her death so calmly and impassively as Mrs. Place did. It had not been expected that she would do so. The last woman condemned to die in this State went to the gallows shrieking and fighting, but Mrs. Place hardly uttered a sound. She merely murmured a prayer, with closed eyes, her face turned partly upward and seemingly unconscious of things about her.

THE MOST SUCCESSFUL ELECTROCUTION.

This was the 24th electrocution at Sing Sing prison, but none before was so successful as that of to-day. Not only was there no scene, but there was no delay. Within three minutes after coming through the iron doors the order of the law had been carried out. There were 12 witnesses present, and only those who watched every movement witnessed Mrs. Place's death. Few were able to see the raising of the body as the electrical shock passed through it. It was only when the current was partly shut off that they could see the body relax. It was an easy way to die.

A RESTLESS NIGHT.

On Sunday Mrs. Place had her regular attendants, and during the night she was visited by her spiritual adviser, Rev. Dr. David Cole, of Yonkers, and Mrs. Maury, a mission worker of Brooklyn, who has taken a great interest in the woman's welfare. The warden's wife, also, spent an hour or so with her, but at 9:30 Mrs. Place was left alone with the night matron, Mrs. Conley, with two keepers in the outer room. The condemned woman was very restless. Outside a terrific

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